

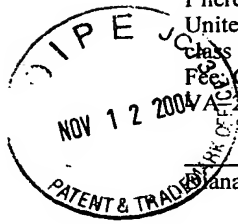
Docket No: 21456-13

PATENT

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Issue Fee, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450; Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on November 9, 2004.

NOA Date: August 9, 2004



Ana M. Celia

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Joshua R. Kornau, et al.

Paper No.:

Serial No.: 10/027,097

Group Art Unit: 3679

Filed: December 20, 2001

Examiner: James M. Hewitt

For: **Self-Aligning Coupling Assembly**

TRANSMITTAL OF FORMAL DRAWINGS

MAIL STOP ISSUE FEE
ATTN: Official Draftsperson
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the Examiner's requirement set forth in the Notice of Allowance dated August 9, 2004, attached please find formal drawings to be substituted for the originally filed informal drawings in this application. These drawings are substantively identical to the informal drawings originally filed and as amended during the prosecution, and no new matter is involved.

Please charge any fees required, and credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 04-1133.

Respectfully submitted,

By: Clayton L. Kuhnell
Clayton L. Kuhnell
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(513) 977-8377



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Diana M. Celia
Diana M. Celia

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COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In the Notice of Allowability accompanying the Notice of Allowance dated August 9, 2004, a Statement of Reasons for Allowance was provided. The Examiner's Statement indicates that the prior art fail to teach or suggest that the first and second arms are rotatable about an axis which is substantially parallel to the facing planar surfaces of the flanged fittings, as required by claims 6 and 30." Applicants agree that the prior art fails to teach or make obvious these claimed features. Moreover, Applicants wish to clarify that the art also fails to teach or make obvious the claimed self-aligning coupling of independent claims 6 and 30 and those claims dependent therefrom.

These Comments are submitted in order to clarify the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance. Entry is therefore believed to be in order and is respectfully

requested. Please charge any fee required in connection with this paper to Deposit Account
No. 04-1133.

Respectfully submitted,

By: Clayton L. Kuhnell
Clayton L. Kuhnell
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255 East Fifth Street
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